

Message Text

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SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY SENATOR KENNEDY ON CYPRUS

ON JULY 22 SENATOR KENNEDY ENTERED INTO THE CONGRESSIONAL
RECORD AN ADDITIONAL STATEMENT ON "CYPRUS: THREE YEARS
AFTER THE TURKISH INVASION." FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT TRANS-
MITTED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION: BEGIN QUOTE. MR. PRESI-
DENT, JUST 3 YEARS AGO THE NORTHERN AREAS OF CYPRUS WERE
INVADED AND OCCUPIED BY THE ARMED FORCES OF TURKEY. THE
HUMAN AND POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THAT TRAGEDY ARE STILL
WITH US TODAY, AND SO ARE THE DANGERS OF NEW TENSION AND
EVEN GREATER HUMAN SUFFERING.

IN JULY 1974, TURKISH FORCES DIVIDED CYPRUS. OVER 200,000
PEOPLE BECAME REFUGEES. HUNDREDS LOST THEIR LIVES OR WERE
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WOUNDED. OTHERS ARE STILL MISSING. THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF
THE ISLAND WAS TORN APART. AND ITS ECONOMY AND THE LIVELI-
HOOD OF THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES--BOTH CYPRIOT GREEKS AND
CYPRIOT TURKS--WERE SHATTERED.

NOTHING HAS REALLY CHANGED ON CYPRUS. AND THE PROBLEMS
CREATED BY THE TURKISH INVASION CONTINUE TO FESTER. TURKISH

TROOPS, ARMED WITH AMERICAN WEAPONS, STILL OCCUPY NEARLY 40 PERCENT OF CYPRUS. NO REFUGEES HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES. AND DESPITE THE BEST EFFORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHERS, NO SOLUTION IS IN SIGHT. IN SHORT, THE SHAMBLES CREATED BY THE TURKISH INVASION REMAINS FOR ALL TO SEE.

WE CANNOT IGNORE THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP RESOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM-- NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF OUR CLOSE TIES WITH ANKARA OVER THE YEARS AND BECAUSE AMERICAN SUPPLIES WERE USED TO INVADE AND OCCUPY THE ISLAND, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OUR PAST DIPLOMACY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE CONTINUING TRAGEDY.

BUT REAL PROGRESS TOWARD AN HONORABLE AND JUST RESOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM REMAINS A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN REPAIRING OUR TRADITIONALLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENTS IN BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY. AND PROGRESS ON CYPRUS IS CRUCIAL, AS WELL, IN STABILIZING OUR SECURITY INTEREST IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. TODAY, AS 3 YEARS AGO, IT IS ILLUSORY TO BELIEVE THAT THESE RELATIONS CAN BE FULLY REPAIRED, OR OUR INTERESTS FULLY STABILIZED, WITHOUT REAL PROGRESS ON CYPRUS.

MR. PRESIDENT, I WANT TO COMMEND THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS
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INITIATIVES ON CYPRUS SINCE JANUARY, AND I FULLY SUPPORT HIS RECENT PLEDGE "THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL DO ALL THAT IT CAN TO HELP ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT FOR CYPRUS." THE PRESIDENT MADE THIS PLEDGE ON APRIL 15, IN THE REQUIRED REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS. AND HOPEFULLY, SOME NEW INITIATIVES CAN BE TAKEN SOON.

BUT I AM DISTURBED BY RECENT REPORTS FROM ANKARA THAT TURKISH LEADERS ARE AGAIN THREATENING AN INDEPENDENT TURKISH STATE IN NORTHERN CYPRUS. SURELY THE NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT MUST KNOW THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD ONLY CAUSE NEW TENSIONS AND CONFLICT ON THE ISLAND, AND ALSO ENDANGER THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT MUST ALSO KNOW THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD SABOTAGE ANY NEW EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS, AND PLACE NEW STRAINS ON RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

SO I APPEAL TODAY TO THE LEADERS IN ANKARA FOR CALM AND REASON IN APPROACHING A PROBLEM THAT HAS FESTERED TOO LONG.

AND I AM ALSO HOPEFUL THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL PUBLICLY RENEW OUR COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT TO WORK FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON CYPRUS--FOR A JUST SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM--AND FOR THE FULL RESTORATION OF THE ISLAND'S INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE RESTORATION OF THE FULL INDEPENDENCE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CYPRUS BE THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF AMERICAN POLICY AND DIPLOMACY. NO OTHER GOAL BETTER SATISFIES JUSTICE OR THE BRINGING OF PEACE AND RELIEF TO THE UNHAPPY PEOPLE OF CYPRUS--BOTH CYPRIOT-GREEKS AND CYPRIOT-TURKS.

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AND THERE ARE SOME OTHER ITEMS THAT DESERVE OUR COUNTRY'S ATTENTION, AS I HAVE SUGGESTED REPEATEDLY OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS IN RELEASING SPECIAL REPORTS ON CYPRUS PREPARED BY SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEES.

FIRST, WE MUST CONTINUE, IN CONCERT WITH OTHERS, TO USE OUR INFLUENCE AND GOOD OFFICES WITH TURKEY TO PERSUADE ANKARA TO GIVE ITS ACTIVE SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL AGREEMENTS, AND TO THE RESUMPTION OF MEANINGFUL INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS UNDER UNITED NATIONS AUSPICES. THE ELEMENTS OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM--BOTH TERRITORIAL AND STRUCTURAL--HAVE BEEN THERE FOR ALL TO SEE FOR MANY MONTHS. BUT EQUALLY CLEAR HAS BEEN THE ABSENCE OF A WILL TO ACT ON THE PART OF TURKEY OR THE CYPRIOT-TURKISH LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER, AS THE OCCUPYING AND STRONGER POWER ON CYPRUS, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, TURKEY HAS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT IN HELPING TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS.

SECOND, THE PLIGHT AND FATE OF THE REFUGEES MUST REMAIN CENTRAL IN ANY EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. A VIABLE AND JUST SOLUTION ON CYPRUS SIMPLY CANNOT BE FOUND, UNLESS AND UNTIL THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF THE RIGHT OF THE REFUGEES TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND LANDS, OR TO BE FULLY COMPENSATED FOR THEIR LOSSES, IS RECOGNIZED BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

AND FINALLY, MR. PRESIDENT, I BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES MUST CONTINUE TO HELP IN THE RECOVERY EFFORTS IN ALL PARTS OF CYPRUS, AND CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMS OF THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED NATIONS HIGHS COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES. I AM PLEASED

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THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED AN AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MYSELF AND OUR DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE FROM RHODE ISLAND (MR. PELL) TO AUTHORIZE DOLS 15 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE TO CYPRUS DURING THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR, AND I AM PLEASED THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAS ACTED TO FUND THIS AUTHORIZATION. THE FUNDS ARE NEEDED TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF CYPRUS.

AS THE TURKISH OCCUPATION OF NORTHERN CYPRUS MOVES INTO ITS 4TH YEAR, IT IS TIME AGAIN TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE IMPERATIVES FOR AMERICAN DIPLOMACY HAVE RARELY BEEN MORE CLEAR--AND, EQUALLY CLEAR, ARE THE DANGERS OF NEW TRAGEDIES ON CYPRUS, AND NEW TENSIONS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, IF OUR NATION FAILS TO ACT.

MR. PRESIDENT, I AM HOPEFUL THAT IN THE COMING DAYS THE ADMINISTRATION WILL GIVE FURTHER SUBSTANCE TO THE PRESIDENT'S PLEDGE THAT "WORKING IN CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE CONGRESS, WE WILL DEVOTE WHATEVER EFFORTS MAY BE REQUIRED TO BRING ABOUT A TRULY JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN."

THE PLACE TO BEGIN--AS IT WAS 3 YEARS AGO--IS ON CYPRUS.

END QUOTE. VANCE

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